

Section II. (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 12, 13, 16 and 21 as laid out in the listing of claims 1-28 below:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of obtaining nanoparticles for the administration of at least one active ingredient, with a diameter less than μm , the steps of:
 - a) preparing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt;
 - b) preparing an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer;
 - c) adding a polyanionic salt to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt;
 - d) stir-mixing the solutions resulting from steps b) and c), spontaneously obtaining the nanoparticles,wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in one of resulting solutions a), b) or c) or in the suspension of nanoparticles obtained in step d) to be absorbed in the nanoparticles.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt solution is prepared at a concentration of between 0.50 and 5 mg/mL.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer solution is prepared at a concentration of between 0.5 and 5 mg/mL.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the anionic salt is added at a concentration of between 0.25 and 1.00 mg/mL.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient comprises a macromolecule.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein, if the macromolecule has a lyophilic nature, said macromolecule is dissolved, before incorporating it in one of solutions a) or b), in a mixture of water and a water-miscible organic solvent, so that the concentration of the organic solvent in the end solution is less than 10% by weight.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent comprises acetonitrile.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt comprises sodium salt.

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9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer comprises chitosan.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer comprises collagen or gelatine.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyanionic salt comprises sodium tripoliphosphate.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid:cationic polymer:polyanionic salt ~~in the end solution~~ is between 1:0.5:0.1 and 1:10:2.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid:cationic polymer: polyanionic salt ~~in the end solution~~ is between 1:1:0.15 and 1:10:1.5.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an additional step e), after step d), of lyophilizing the nanoparticles obtained in the presence of reduced quantities of sugars.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising an additional step f), after step e), of regenerating the lyophilizing nanoparticles.
16. (Currently Amended) Nanoparticles for the administration of an active ingredient, which are obtained by the method of claim 1.
17. (Previously Presented) Nanoparticles for the administration of an active ingredient, comprising a hyaluronic acid salt, a cationic polymer, a polyanionic salt and the active ingredient.
18. (Previously Presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the active ingredient comprises a macromolecule.
19. (Previously Presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the hyaluronic acid

salt comprises sodium salt.

20. (Previously Presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the cationic polymer comprises chitosan.

21. (Currently Amended) Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the cationic polymer comprises collagen or gelatine.

22. (Previously Presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the polyanionic salt comprises sodium triphosphate.

23. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition, comprising nanoparticles according to claim 16.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for topical or parenteral administration or administration to mucous membranes of an active ingredient to a subject in need thereof, said pharmaceutical composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 17.

25. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition, comprising nanoparticles according to claim 17.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of making nanoparticles for administration of at least one active ingredient, with a diameter of less than 1 μm , comprising:

providing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt;

adding a polyanionic salt to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt;

mixing the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt to which said polyanionic salt has been added,

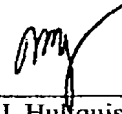
with an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer, to yield said nanoparticles.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising incorporating said active ingredient in said nanoparticles.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a subject with an active ingredient, comprising administration to said subject of nanoparticles according to claim 17.

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Respectfully submitted,



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